



REPORT OF ALTON B&M RAILROAD PARK

The Downtown Revitalization Committee (DRC) is now entering its fifth year of working toward its goal of building a multi-use, multi-generational park in the center of Alton Village, the Alton B&M Railroad Park. We are very pleased to say that much was accomplished in 2007 through the efforts of the DRC but, also through many generous donations of money, time, equipment and labor by the townspeople of Alton.

Several Appalachian Mountain Teen Project members, from Alton Central School, returned to work on the Toddler Playground and the Walking Path. Another organization, the Alton/New Durham Lions Club gave a generous contribution (held over from 2006) toward extending the Walking Path along the old railroad bed. Two areas in the Park have been Hydro-seeded through the generosity of the Hydro-seeding business owner located here in Alton, a very attractive addition to the Park.

The DRC continued to apply funds received from the State of New Hampshire Moose Plate Program, DRED-Rails and Trails, the Community Foundation for the Fox Valley Region, the DeLong family of Appleton, WI, Wal-Mart Stores of Gilford and Rochester, NH the Cogswell Benevolent Trust-Toddler Playground Grant for a variety of projects in the park and a second grant was received from the Meredith Village Savings Bank.

Receiving funds from a variety of sources and volunteer workers helped us realize several goals in 2007: relocation of electrical lines underground to the Freight Building, with the aide of the Water Department a new water line was brought into the Park, two sections of the main Walking Path were nearly completed. Hydro-seeding was begun, adding an attractive green area along the Walking Path. New benches and new picnic tables were donated by generous donors. Grading for the two Town owned properties, for much needed Municipal Parking, was begun last fall by the Alton Highway Department.

The long awaited Toddler Playground (built to Federal Specifications) was completed, featuring a Climber, a See-Saw, a Train Engine and a motorcycle. A Sandbox complete with benches and gated fence will be ready this coming spring and will be handicapped accessible.

The 2008 Agenda includes continuing fund raising, selling the Village Train Station pewter medallion and the 2008 Alton Photo Calendar. We will have a second "Historic Photo Auction" table during Town Voting Day, March 11, 2008. Weather permitting we will participate in the June Town-wide Yard Sale and hold a second Town Rubber Duck Race during Old Home Day. On a colorful sunny, fall day, townspeople were invited to an Open House at the Park. Children of all ages arrived to enjoy the Boardwalk, Walking Path, Toddler Playground and delicious refreshments.



Identifying wildlife, flowers and fauna located in the marsh area has begun. This information will appear on several signs attached to the Boardwalk as well as handouts for each visitor to the Park.

Through the generosity of the Alton American Legion Post No. 72, a beautiful aluminum flagpole and American Flag, tow special gifts to the Alton B&M Railroad Park, will be dedicated during Memorial Day activities. A bronze plaque will be dedicated to Alton's Veteran's Memorial Day.

Each member of the DRC wish to thank the Alton Towns people for their continued generous support to the Alton B&M Railroad Park.

Respectfully Submitted,

Judy Fry, Chairman

Bonnie Barsanti, Recorder

Norman Crawford

Nancy Merrill, Recorder

Deanna O'Shaughnessy, Grant Writer

Peter Bolster, Selectmen's Representative

Thomas Hoopes, Planning Board Representative

